



# Henry County, Virginia

E-Newsletter from the official website of Henry County, VA

## Henry County Monthly Newsletter

### September 2009

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#### **PART bus system extended for second year**

Area residents now have twice the opportunity and half of the cost to ride the area's public transportation system, and they will be able to do so for at least another year.

The Piedmont Area Regional Transit system, or PART, added a second bus to its system August 17. The second bus is being provided by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation at no additional cost for Henry County and the City of Martinsville.

The addition of the second bus allows more frequent stops along the designated routes, and allows riders to reach their destinations more quickly. The new route schedule is posted on Henry County's website - [www.henrycountyva.gov](http://www.henrycountyva.gov) - and the City of Martinsville's website - [www.martinsville-va.gov](http://www.martinsville-va.gov) - and is available at the County Administration Building and the City Municipal Building.

In addition to the second bus, the fare to ride has dropped to 50 cents from \$1.00. Exact change will be required.

These latest changes come as ridership on the PART system continues to increase. In June, 185 people rode on the system, compared to 56 in May. Ridership was 182 in July and 311 in August. The system reached its single-day high with 44 riders September 1.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors and the Martinsville City Council are impressed with the increased ridership. The two bodies held a joint meeting August 31 and voted to continue the PART bus system for a second year.

The fixed-route system covers the high-traffic areas within the City of Martinsville and Henry County, including access to the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Social Services, the Social Security Office, Patrick Henry Community College, the Health Department, City and County Government buildings, Grace Network/Adult Day Care Center, Patrick Henry Mall, medical facilities and major retail locations.

The PART system runs 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is managed by RADAR of Roanoke, a non-profit organization that has organized and maintained both public and private human service transportation for more than 30 years.

For more information, please contact Leon Towarnicki, the City of Martinsville's Director of Public Works at (276) 403-5154; Lee Clark, Henry County's Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection at (276) 634-4620; or Leon Robertson, RADAR at (800) 964-5707 Ext. 105.

#### **Parks and Recreation Fall Program Guide available**

We encourage you to delve into the fall season with a wide variety of programs offered by Henry County Parks and Recreation. The programs and activities are geared toward all ages, from youth to seniors; whether you're into sports or enjoy traveling, there's something for everyone.

The Fall Program Guide is now available and we encourage you to stay active as the cooler

autumn days set in. Now is the perfect time to enjoy the parks and walking trails and we have several canoe access points for your convenience as well. Please call 634-4640 or visit our website, [www.henrycountyva.gov/Parks-and-Recreation.html](http://www.henrycountyva.gov/Parks-and-Recreation.html), for more information or to register for events.

### **Residents urged to prepare for H1N1 virus**

As you are aware, there is a new influenza virus, the novel H1N1 (also referred to as "swine flu"), causing illness in people across the country. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009.

This virus is spreading from person-to-person worldwide, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread. Although the World Health Organization (WHO) signaled the novel H1N1 flu a pandemic in June, there is no need for people to panic. For your information, please visit the Virginia Department of Health's website for information on to combat the flu with tips on prevention as well as caregiving for family members infected with the virus. The website is [www.vdh.virginia.gov/flu/FluToolkit/StayAtHomeToolkit.pdf](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/flu/FluToolkit/StayAtHomeToolkit.pdf)

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